

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

With respect to applicant's claimed domestic and foreign priority rights, it is agreed that insofar as domestic priority rights under 35 U.S.C. §120 are concerned, the earliest such priority date applicable to the claims in the present case is the parent application 09/111,885 filed July 8, 1998. Accordingly, the cross reference to prior related applications has been suitably amended above.

The subject matter presently claimed was first disclosed in UK priority application 9713221.1 filed 23 June 1997. It was also disclosed in UK priority application 97255133.4 filed 27 November 1997. Copies of the priority applications were filed in US application 09/111,885. All other foreign priority claims are withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of claims 82, 84, 85 and 88 under 35 U.S.C. §112, claims 82, 84 and 88 have been amended to insure appropriate antecedent basis. Accordingly, all outstanding formal issues are now believed to have been resolved in applicant's favor.

The rejection of claims 78-81, 83-86 and 89-90 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly made "obvious" by Yamamoto '513 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 74 has been amended to clarify distinctions over Yamamoto.

In particular, Yamamoto describes a technique for scanning the x and y coils of a digitizer tablet in order to determine the x-y position of a resonant stylus over the tablet.

Yamamoto acknowledges that it is not possible to detect the x-y position of the stylus until the stylus comes within an operating range (height) of the system. However, Yamamoto does not teach or suggest that the signals generated in the x-y coils are processed to determine the height of the stylus within the operating range. Yamamoto only teaches detecting if the stylus is in range or not by detecting whether or not there is a signal from the resonator.

The amended claims clarify this distinction between the claimed invention and Yamamoto.

Additionally, the applicant notes that the Examiner appears to be construing claim 74 as limited to a system which employs an active magnetic field generator. This is not the case. The applicant intends that the claimed magnetic field generator covers a passive stylus such as the resonant styluses described in Yamamoto and described in the present application. Such passive stylus does generate a signal after it has been energized by an appropriate energizing circuit. In this regard, the Examiner is also referred to claim 84 which confirms this interpretation. In any event, and as discussed above, Yamamoto does not teach or disclose processing the signals generated in the x-y coils to determine a measure of the height of the field generator above the planar coils within the sensing range.

When objecting to claim 81, the Examiner acknowledged that Yamamoto does not explicitly teach how the height is determined. As the Examiner rightly points out, the amplitude of the signals generated in the x-y coils will depend on the height of the stylus from the coils. However, they will also depend on many other factors, including the tilt of the stylus, the x-y position of the stylus, the impedance of the scanning circuitry, the power level of the excitation

signal, etc. Yamamoto does not disclose or suggest how the signals generated in the coils can be processed to obtain a measure of the height. With regard to claim 81, claim 81 specifies that the processing circuitry combines the signals generated in two of the sensor coils to provide an amplitude measure and that this amplitude measure is used to determine the height measure.

Yamamoto does not disclose or suggest this processing.

In view of the fundamental deficiencies of Yamamoto with respect to parent claim 74, it is not necessary to now explain the further deficiencies of Yamamoto with respect to dependent claims 75-85.

With regard to independent claim 86, this claim has been amended similarly to claim 74, it is also allowable at least for the reasons given above. Additionally, claim 86 specifies that the processing circuitry combines the signals generated in two or more of the sensor coils to derive an amplitude measure which is independent of the x-y position and which varies with the height. Yamamoto does not disclose or suggest such processing. For this additional reason, claim 86 is both novel and inventive over Yamamoto.

In view of the fundamental deficiencies of Yamamoto with respect to parent claim 86, it is not necessary to now explain the further deficiencies of Yamamoto with respect to dependent claims 87-90.

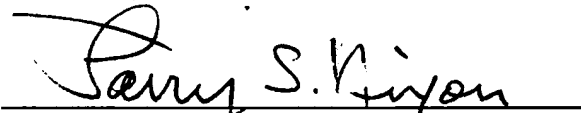
Appl. No. 10/796,164
September 14, 2005

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable form and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Larry S. Nixon", is written over a horizontal line.

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